

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Christopher Brett Ward  
Serial Number : 10/501,277  
Filing Date : September 3, 2004  
Title : HYDROMETALLURGICAL  
PROCESSING OF MANGANESE  
CONTAINING MATERIALS  
Examiner : Arun S. Phasge  
Group Art Unit : 1795

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

In response to outstanding Office Action mailed April 14, 2009, and in connection with the accompanying Request for Continued Examination, kindly amend the above-identified patent application as follows: